A Preface to the Fifth Edition of Removing Natural Prejudices, &c.

In a Letter to the Author of the *Conjecture upon Trade*.

SIR,

AFTER Reading this Author's [illegible] I observ'd what he had written [illegible] *Considerations upon Trade*, and with [illegible] *Letter* concerning his Remarks thereon. [illegible] *Letter* he takes to task in the *Preface* to [illegible] *Effay*, in these Two Particulars, viz. [illegible]

[illegible] Small Beer in *England* [illegible] more [illegible] per Barrel, Excise, if sold for above 6 *l.* and that the Foreign Salt paid 10 *sh.* per Bushel.

I observe his Method in Confuting these Two Assertions, which is, by the Practice of *England*, tho' contrary to the Act of Parliament imposing the Excise on Liquors, and by the Acts of Parliament in that Kingdom, without mentioning the Practice, when he states the Excise on Salt: So when he cannot make good his Assertions from the Acts themselves, he must run to Witnesses for the Practice that Beer and Ale sold at 10, or 10 *sh.* the Barrel pays only the low Excise. All this, it seems, is in Vindication of what was advanced by him, That the Excise upon Ale and Beer would not be so hurtful to the Nation, as it it was given out by such Authors as he Complain'd of.

I think there is no great Necessity now, to take notice of what this Gentleman advances, seeing these Matters are already adjusted by the Parliament: But to Convince him, if he will be Convinc'd, that the *English* Excise upon Beer and Ale, was no less than what was advanced (*viz.* 6 *sh.* upon the Quantity Brewn upon each Boll of Malt) I shall recommend him to what is written by Dr. *Davenant*, whose Authority every Man will believe to be as good as our

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Author's, *Pag.* 147. of his *Discourses upon Publick Revenues*, he says, "In the common way of working, "especially in the Counties adjacent to *London*, "where the Malt yields well, they Brew a sort "of Ale; or mild Drink, which heretofore "was worth between 17 and 18 *sh.* per Bar-"rel; and of this Drink they generally draw "from a Quarter of Malt, about Two Barrels, "one Firkin Strong, and one Barrel Small. So,

"For the New Imposition on Malt the Quarter	06:	04:	00
"For the Two Barrels, one Firkin strong the Duty	00:	10:	08 ½
"For the one Barrel small Duty	00:	01:	03
"Then there seems to be payed from a Quarter "Of Malt Excise, and New Duty	00:	15:	11 ½

This is *Davenant*'s Computation, and laying aside the 4 *sh.* on the Malt, our Author may make the Computation, if the remainder will not exceed 6 *sh.* upon the Liquor of a *Scots* Boll of Malt: And I think the Act of Parliament, and *Davenant*'s Authority for the Calcule, is as good as any Proof he can adduce. And therefore, altho' I shall not say, That his *Ignorance* is detected; yet I may say, his *Forwardness* in attacking me, without any Ground in this Matter, will add very little to the Authority of what he advances.

As to the Salt, the Acts of Parliament are clear, that the Imposition of 10 *d.* is upon the Gallon: and seing 84 *lb.* Weight was declared to be the Bushel only

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in the Reign of Queen *ANN*, there is just Reason to think, if this 84 *lib.* Weight would be 8 Gallons, which is the Measure of the Bushel; or 12 Gallons, which answers nearest to the Standard, by which the Weight of the *Scots* Measure is made up? And I know no Reason, seeing our Author takes him to prove as to his Ale in one Point, why he may not allow an other to advance, what he has from very good Authority; especially when it tends only for making Enquiry in the Truth of what is advanced: But now that being determined, it's needless to insist further upon it.

Only our Author may see, that he had no good Reason to assert, That I had something more to account for to the World, than an Honest Man cares to be Charged with.

Our Author acknowledges, his Life is mixt with Misfortunes; I shall raise no Scandal against him: but without Breach of Charity, I may conclude, That what he has advanced may be reckoned among these Misfortunes have attended him.

I shall not inquire further in his Essay, those Authors whom he takes to task, no doubt (if they think it worth their While) will Answer him. And

I am

Sir Yours, &c.

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